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IBM Docket No BOC9-2000-0052

Appl. No. 09/898,282 Amendment dated March 1, 2004 Reply to Office action of December 1, 2003 Docket No. 6169-186

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the abstract with the following amended abstract:

A speech processing board eenfigured in accordance with the inventive arrangements can include multiple processor modules, each processor module having an associated local memory, each processor module and hosting at least one instance of a speech application task. The speech processing board also can include a storage system for storing speech task data, the speech task data including language models and finite state grammars, a local communications bus communicatively linking each processor module through which each processor module can exchange speech task data with the storage system, and, a communications bridge to a host system, wherein the The communications bridge can provide an interface to the local communications bus through which data can be exchanged between the processor modules and the host system. Notably, the host system can be a CT media services system or a VoIP gateway/endpoint.

